

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 3-4, 13-18 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b). Claims 5 and 7-12 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a). Claims 1, 3-19 and 21-22 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Since all rejected claims have been cancelled, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Further Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the course of the telephonic interview on September 12, 2006. No exhibits or demonstrations were discussed. No prior art references of record were discussed.

Applicants suggested deleting claims 1-22 and adding new claims identical to allowed claims 1-45, 54-61 and 63 from the parent application (US Serial No. 09/335,218). Applicants thank the Examiner for stating that this was acceptable.

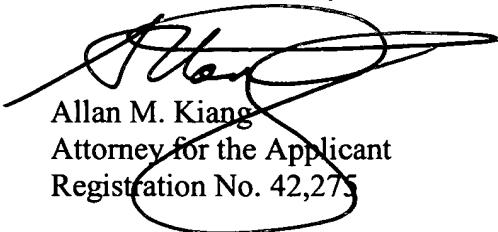
Applicants have added such allowed claims to the present application. Previously allowed claims 1-45 correspond to present claims 23-67. Previously allowed claim 54-61 correspond to present claims 68-75. Previously allowed claim 63 corresponds to present claim 76. The Examiner's amendments in the Notice of Allowability in the parent application are reflected in new claims 23, 47, 69, and 76.

Applicants enclose corrected formal drawings for the present application.

Conclusions

The claims of the present application are believed to be in condition for allowance, and early notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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